

although examples occasionally occur a couple of inches long. The general, slightly curved, obtusely pointed, rapidly tapering form, and peculiar horny looking texture have suggested the specific name. The only described fossil it has any resemblance to is the *Cyrtoceras Verneuilanum* of De Koninck (A. F. B. t. 48. f. 6), but it is easily distinguished by that species having a broad oval transverse section, while the section of the present fossil is perfectly circular; and the septa which from their obliquity appear oval, have their long axis directed in the opposite direction; the curvature is also less in our fossil. Some of the specimens show a very slight contraction at the mouth, which renders it probable that the species belongs to the subgenus *Poterioceras*, with which all the other characters agree exactly and better than with any other section of *Orthoceras*.

Not very uncommon in the carboniferous limestone of Lowick, Northumberland.

(Col. University of Cambridge.)

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*A Naturalist's Rambles on the Devonshire Coast.* By P. H. Gosse, A.L.S. &c. London: John Van Voorst, 1853.

WE shall do our readers a service at this season of the year, when so many are seeking health and relaxation by the sea-shore, by directing their attention to this very pleasing and useful work. Armed with this and Dr. Harvey's excellent 'Sea-side Book\*,' every pool will be found to offer ample sources of amusement and instruction, and they may bid defiance to that dire ennui which would appear to be the source of the ordinary melancholy amusements of a 'watering place.' We do not mean to say that people who go for relaxation to the sea-side should bore themselves by taking microscopes and scalpels and making scientific observations; but without going at all deeply into the subject, the search for zoophytes and mollusks will give their walks something of the excitement of a hunt, and bringing them home—watching their odd ways, and finding out all about them in the books—will originate a vast deal of interest, and a great deal of fun and humour into the bargain. At least so we have found it, and we dare not venture to imagine that the 'gentle reader' is a more dry and adust personage than ourself.

Most persons have a gustatory interest in Prawns, and indeed one considers it to be part of one's mission at the sea-side to devour them at breakfast and tea; but how few of us there are who are aware that

\* Published by Van Voorst,—a book popular enough to cause a 'Religious' Society to put forth a work with a title so similar, that those who look no further might be readily deceived. We trust our readers will take care to discourage this pious aberration.

the thing we pluck off with our fingers, not without inward murmurings at the absurd complexity of Palæmonic structure, has such a dignified name as 'Cephalo-thorax.' Still less that the well-flavoured red thing when alive can deserve so much eloquence as Mr. Gosse has expended upon him in the following passage:—

"Large Prawns swim at freedom through this large pool; and a very pleasing sight it is to watch them as they glide gracefully and equally along; the tail-fans are widely dilated, rendering conspicuous the contrasted colours with which they are painted; the jaws are expanded, the feet hanging loosely beneath. Now one rises to the surface almost perpendicularly; then glides down towards the bottom, sweeping up again in a graceful curve. Now he examines the weeds, then shoots under the dark angles of the rock. As he comes up towards me I stretch out my hand over the water; in an instant he shoots backwards a foot or so; then catching hold of a weed with his feet and straddling its vertical edge, he remains motionless, gazing up at me with his large prominent eyes as if in the utmost astonishment.

"This Prawn, that comes to our tables decked out and penetrated, as it were, with a delicate pellucid rose colour, beautiful as he is then, is far more beautiful when just netted from the bottom, or from the overhanging weed-grown side of some dark pool. If you happen never to have seen him in this state let me introduce him to you; form and dimensions of course you are acquainted with; these do not change, but I will just observe that it is a 'sizeable' fellow that is now before me, whose portrait I am going to take. Stand still, you beauty! and don't shoot round and round the jar in that retrograde fashion, when I want to jot down your elegant lineaments! there now he is quiet! quiet but watchful! maintaining a sort of armed neutrality, with extended eyes, antennæ stretching perpendicularly upwards, claws held out divergently with open pincers ready to seize, as if these slender things could do me any harm, and feet and expanded tail prepared in a twinkling to dart backward on the least alarm."

The book is full of such genial and graphic descriptions of marine animals, interspersed with an abundance of carefully made and detailed scientific observations; particularly as regards the Polytes and Medusæ. Mr. Gosse gives some of the best descriptions of the peculiar 'thread-cells' of these animals we have met with, and his observations respecting the effect of light on the colour of Fuci and of Crustacea, upon the development of *Lepralia*, and on the mode in which the *Pecten* performs its leaps, are well worthy of attention. With respect to the latter point we may remark, that whatever may be the case with *Pecten*, we have unquestionably seen the allied genus *Lima* flapping with its valves like a butterfly through the water.

The only faults we have to notice in Mr. Gosse's book arise from that want of acquaintance with foreign literature which is unhappily the rule in English works. Thus he does not seem to know that the structure of the eyes of the Lamellibranchiata has been elaborately described by Krohn and Will, and that a memoir has been devoted

to *Pedicellina* by Van Beneden. Again, much as we regret to deprive a lady of her well-earned honours, we are necessitated to point out that the animal of which he gives an excellent figure and description, and on which, supposing it to be new, he confers the name of *Johnstonella Catharina*, was first described by Eschscholtz in 1825, under the name of *Tomopteris*, afterwards by Quoy and Gaimard as *Briarea*; then by Busch in 1847 and by Grube in 1848, as *Tomopteris*. It is in fact the *Tomopteris onisciformis*, and has a very extensive distribution, having been taken by the present writer in the tropical regions of the South Pacific. It is assuredly an Annelid, but a most remarkable form; and a very excellent description of its structure, by Grube, will be found in Müller's 'Archiv' for 1848.

Lapses of this kind will doubtless be corrected by our author in his second edition, and we take leave of him with our best wishes that he may soon have the opportunity of so doing.

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 27, 1851.—W. Yarrell, Esq., V.P.L.S., in the Chair.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF TROCHIDÆ (*continued from*  
p. 148). BY ARTHUR ADAMS, R.N., F.L.S. ETC.

#### Genus 9. ZIZIPHINUS, Leach.

*Calliostoma*, Swains.—*Labio*, sp. Oken.—*Trochilus*, sp. Humph.

1. ZIZIPHINUS ZONAMESTUS, A. Adams. *Z. testâ obliquè pyramidalî, umbilicatâ, carnèâ, cingulis transversis granosis permultis ornatâ; interstitiis purpurascensibus, striis obliquis longitudinalibus; anfractibus planis, supra suturas angulatis, ultimo acutè angulato, basi plano-concavâ, cingulis granulatis insculptâ umbilico magno, infundibuliformi, intus albo; aperturâ rhomboïdèd, intus albâ; columellâ rectâ, basi truncatâ.*

*Hab.* Honduras (Dyson).

2. ZIZIPHINUS TICAONICUS, A. Adams. *Z. testâ elevato-conicâ, perforatâ, luteâ vel carnèâ, liris transversis rufo articulatis prope suturas ornatâ; anfractibus paulum rotundatis, longitudinaliter striatis, apice atro-purpureo; anfractu ultimo subangulato, basi convexiusculâ, cingulis rufo-articulatis insculptâ; aperturâ subquadratâ; columellâ rectâ, anticè subtruncatâ; aperturâ intus albâ.*

*Hab.* Island of Ticao, sandy mud, 6 fathoms (H. C.).

3. ZIZIPHINUS JAPONICUS, A. Adams. *Z. testâ turrîto-conicâ, levî, nitidâ, imperforatâ; anfractibus planis, basi lineis duabus impressis, ultimo angulato, rubrâ flammulis fuscis et albidis ornatâ, basi convexâ, cingulis articulatis insculptâ; aperturâ subquadratâ, intus viride iridescenti.*

*Hab.* Japan.